CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   In a computer system, a method for collectively performing validation of credential information comprising:

5   obtaining a set of credential information;

loading a set of rule data associated with said credential information from at least one data source;

obtaining at least one sales transaction associated with at least one distributor;

10   computing a commission for said at least one distributor;

converting said at least one sales transaction into a collective data set for submission to a rule engine;

validating said collective group to produce a validation result, said validation result indicating whether to credit said commission to said at least one

15   distributor; and

executing a predetermined action depending on said validation result.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein said obtaining said set of credential information further comprises denormalizing data from a plurality of database tables.

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3.   The method of claim 1 wherein said loading said set of rule data further comprises loading said set of rule data from a standard format data file.

4.   The method of claim 3 wherein said standard format data file further comprises parsing data from a file having an Extensible Markup Language

5   (XML) format.

5.   The method of claim 1 wherein said validating said collective group further comprises:

        determining said set of rules associated with said collective group by using a set of preconditions to filter among a plurality of rules, said rule data

10   comprising at least one test having an associated type;

        partitioning said set of rules based on said type of said at least one test associated with said set of rules;

        selecting a processor for each of said type of said at least one test, said processor preparing said collective group wherein said collective group

15   comprises tests associated with said test type;

        determining for said set of rule data whether said at least one test associated with said set of rules are valid.

6.   The method in claim 1 wherein said step of executing a predetermined action further comprises computing commission allocations to said sales party.

7.   A method for determining whether to compensate a distributor for at least one sales transaction comprising:

initiating a sale of at least one product;

obtaining information associated with said sale of said at least one

5   product;

recording said information into a computer system in the form of transaction data;

obtaining a rule set to process said transaction data, said rule set comprising credential information identifying regulatory constraints placed on at

10   least one sales representative associated with said initiating said sale of said at least one product;

processing said transaction data using said rule set, wherein said processing comprises collectively determining if said credential information of said at least one sales representative conforms to said regulatory constraints;

15   crediting said at least one sales representative for said sale of said at least one product.

8.   A method for collectively managing the payment of commissions to at least one sales representative comprising:

determining a commission structure associated with selling at least one

20   product;

defining a rule set identifying when said commission is to be paid, said rule set comprising credential information identifying regulatory constraints placed on at least one distributor associated with said selling of said at least one

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product;

obtaining at least one sales transaction associated with at least one distributor;

converting said at least one sales transaction into a collective data set;

5   validating said collective data set to produce a validation result, said validation result indicating whether to credit said commission to said at least one distributor; and

executing a predetermined action depending on said validation result, said predetermined action comprising payment of said commission when said

10   validation result verifies said credential information.

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